

# HISTORY TODAY

## School of History Newsletter

# Welcome back to the School of History!

## Dear Historians!

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year and a very warm welcome to the Freshers who have just joined us. They are not the only ones who are new: I took over as Head of School in the summer, Dr Karen Jones is the new Deputy Head, Dr Ambrogio Caiani is the new Senior Tutor and six new colleagues have arrived: Dr Amy Blakeway is a sixteenth-century historian who specialises in Scotland, Dr Andy Cohen is a historian of Empire focusing on Africa, Mario Draper is a military historian with particular interest in Belgium, Dr Emily Guerry is a medievalist who focuses on visual culture, Dr Mark Lawrence is a military historian who specialises in Spain and Mexico and Dr Chris Smith is a modern British and European historian whose book on Bletchley Park was published a fortnight ago. Our much valued admin team is also growing with two new colleagues, Francine Wise and Dr Mark Hurst, having joined this summer. Not only do we have new colleagues, but we also opened our new School Reception in Rutherford College over the Summer Vacation! Do come and check it out when you are passing!

This is an exciting time to be at Kent. It is among the best universities in the world according to the QS World Rankings 2015-16, was placed 3rd in the last National Student Survey for overall satisfaction and was short-listed for the University of the Year Award by both the *Times* and the *Times Higher*. This summer has witnessed the culmination of Kent's 50th anniversary celebrations with over 1200 graduates returning to Kent to take part in workshops, lectures and interactive



**The School's Administration team in the new History reception area**

**Left-right:** Tim Keward, Rob Brown, Faye Beesley, Sam Crooks, Francine Wise, Jackie Waller, Eloise Bates, Dr Kirsty Corrigan and Jon Beer

events. History is also thriving: we were ranked 8<sup>th</sup> nationally for research intensity in the recent Research Excellence Framework. When we are not teaching, lecturers are either immersed in the archives undertaking research or are writing up their research findings for journals and monographs. We also appear on television and radio and organise conferences.

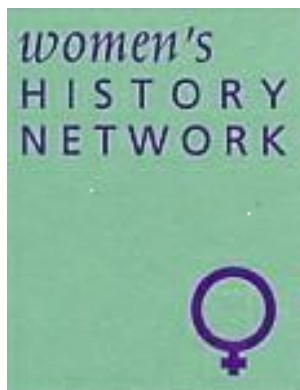
This newsletter, which will be produced intermittently throughout the year, is an opportunity for us to celebrate our successes. I wish you a very enjoyable and productive year.

**Dr Juliette Pattinson**

School of History  
Rutherford College, University of Kent  
Canterbury, CT2 7NX  
Email: [history-office@kent.ac.uk](mailto:history-office@kent.ac.uk)

# News

## Women's History Network Annual Conference 2015



Between 4-6 September, Kent hosted the annual Women's History Network conference on 'Female Agency, Activism and Organisation'.

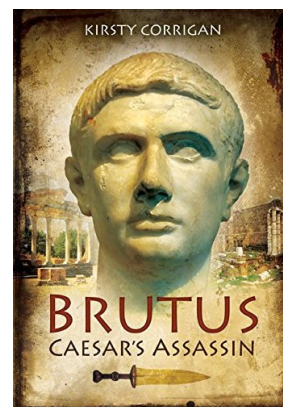
The theme was inspired by the centenary of the Women's Institute. Juliette Pattinson and Emily Manktelow, along with colleagues from the Medway campus, welcomed over 120 delegates, including academics, postgraduates and independent scholars.

There were plenty of talks to inspire, ranging from papers on marital strife in fifteenth-century England to relationships with American GIs in the Second World War, from women cricketers to female politicians, from South African women's fight for liberation to women's anti-fracking protests. Even one of our Second Year undergraduates gave a paper.

There were three keynote speakers: Professor Mary Evans spoke about austerity and gender, Professor Pam Cox talked about using television to disseminate our research findings to a wider audience and Professor Clare Midgley lectured on imperialism and the transnational turn.

A convivial conference dinner at the Café du Soleil and a wine reception sponsored by the publishers' Taylor and Francis added to what was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

## Dr Corrigan pieces together the life of Julius Caesar's assassin



Dr Kirsty Corrigan, Finance Officer for the School, has just published her second book, entitled *Brutus: Caesar's Assassin*.

As well as working part-time on the School's financial administration, Kirsty has a PhD in Classical & Archaeological Studies and, as an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of European Culture and Languages, spends her days out of the office working on her research into the history and literature of the late Roman Republic and early Roman Empire.

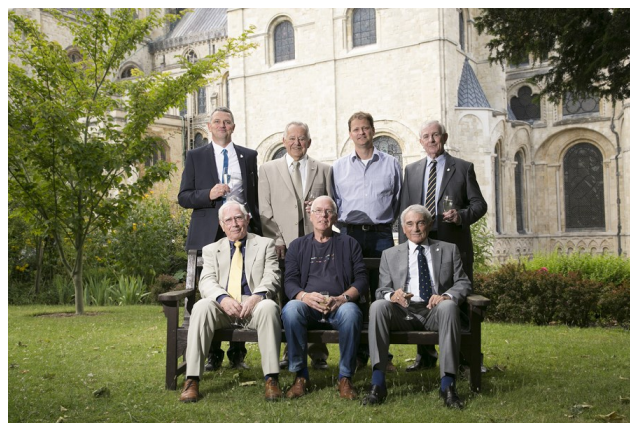
After publishing her PhD thesis, entitled *Virgo to Virago: Medea in the Silver Age*, examining the portrayals of this notorious Greek mythological character in Latin literature, Kirsty chose Marcus Junius Brutus, another infamous figure, as the subject of her next major project. Realising that there had not been a dedicated biography in over 30 years, since Brutus had often been overlooked in favour of other leading political Romans of the time, such as Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Augustus, she felt that some attention was long overdue to the man who had unintentionally helped to bring about the downfall of the Roman Republic while attempting to save it.

While Brutus is known to many chiefly through Shakespeare's literary portrayal of the honourable Roman who played a major part in the legendary assassination of Caesar, in this biography Kirsty instead seeks to place this historical figure in context by piecing together his entire life, as far as is possible, exclusively from the ancient sources.

## Launch of Professor Schmidt's 'Secret Science'

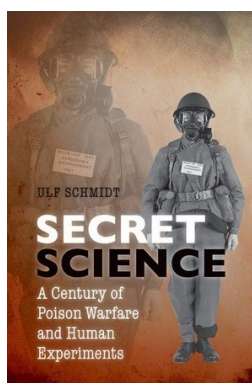
The School held a launch party on Thursday 9 July, to celebrate the release of Professor Ulf Schmidt's latest book *Secret Science: A Century of Poison Warfare and Human Experiments*.

The book, which has been used to inform an episode of BBC World Service's *Witness* radio series on the chemical tests at Porton Down, provides a comprehensive history of chemical and biological weapons research in Britain and North America. It incorporates previously top secret military, scientific, and government archival material with interviews with servicemen and scientists whilst recognising developments in global debates on medical ethics. A number of Porton Down veterans attended the launch, which took place at Canterbury's Cathedral Lodge, as well as academics and staff from the School.



**Back row, left-right:** Ian Foulkes, Terry Alderson, Professor Ulf Schmidt and Dave Painty

**Front row, left-right:** Eric Gow, Alan Care and Michael Reynolds



In addition, Professor Schmidt and Professor (emeritus) David Welch have been given the "green light" to curate a major exhibition on "The War of Nerves: Secret Science during the Cold War" in collaboration with Wellcome Collection. Current plans envisage the exhibition to open first at the Wende Museum, Los Angeles, before moving to the new, much expanded exhibition space at Wellcome Collection, London. The Exhibition will be accompanied by a series of public engagement events and conferences.

Check our School blog ([blogs.kent.ac.uk/history](http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/history)) for further details and exhibition dates, which are due to be announced soon.

*Secret Science: A Century of Poison Warfare and Human Experiments* is available now on Oxford University Press.

## Round-up

***Cosmopolitan Animals***, co-edited by Dr Charlotte Sleight and Dr Karen Jones, was published last month by Palgrave Macmillan. The book, featuring chapters from leading scholars, examines human-animal relationships from different angles, and asks what new possibilities and permutations of cosmopolitanism can emerge by taking seriously our sharing, co-existing and 'becoming-with' animals.

Dr George Conyne appeared on ten local BBC radio stations on the morning of 6th August, to talk on the subject of Hiroshima and its meaning.

**Congratulations to Dr Stefan Goebel, who was promoted to Reader, and Dr Danielle van den Heuvel, who was promoted to Senior Lecturer over the summer.**

The School was delighted to have been ranked 15th in the UK for History in The Guardian University Guide 2016, up seven places from last year, and 22nd for History in the 2016 Times Good University Guide League Table.



## Meet our new staff

### Dr Andrew Cohen

#### Lecturer

Andrew Cohen received his BA and PhD from the University of Sheffield and his MSt from the University of Oxford. He has previously held temporary lectureships at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the University of Sheffield in the UK and research fellowships at the universities of Pretoria and the Free State in South Africa. Before joining the University of Kent in September 2015, Andrew held a lectureship in economic history in the Department of Economics at the University of the Free State.

Dr Cohen's research interests focus on the late nineteenth and twentieth century British Empire and the early decades of independence in sub-Saharan African countries. He is particularly interested in the ways in which multinational business navigated the rapidly changing political landscape of late colonial/early

### Dr Mark Lawrence

#### Lecturer

Mark Lawrence received his BA from the University of Manchester and gained his PhD in the links between war and early Spanish radicalism from the University of Liverpool in 2008. Since then he has lectured at the Universities of Liverpool, the Autónoma de Zacatecas, Sheffield and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Dr Lawrence's research embraces Napoleonic and post-Napoleonic history with particular interests in war, radicalism and society in Spain and in the comparative history of civil war. His research includes irregular and counterinsurgency warfare and its international context (Europe and Latin America). He is author of *Spain's First Carlist War, 1833-40* (Palgrave: Basingstoke, 2014).

He has also published several articles concerning the Peninsular War, post-independence conflict in Mexico and book chapters concerning modern Spain. He is currently completing a comparative study of civil war in modern Spain.

### Mario Draper

#### Lecturer

Mario has just been appointed to a temporary lectureship in Modern British and European Military History, to teach on a number of both undergraduate and postgraduate modules. Having completed his BA in War Studies at the University Kent, Mario attended St Catherine's College, Oxford where he began to specialise in European history, with a particular Belgian focus. Returning to Kent for his Ph.D. entitled *The Belgian Army, Society and Military Cultures 1830-1918*, Mario's work now focusses on the relationship between the army and society, and its role in the formation of the State and national/regional identities.

### Dr Amy Blakeway

#### Lecturer

Amy Blakeway is a lecturer in early modern British History. Her research focuses on sixteenth-century Scottish political history, and she has published on subjects ranging from inflation, to the Privy Council, to propaganda and the use of texts in political life.

Before joining Kent, Amy was a Junior Research Fellow at Homerton College, Cambridge University, and, before that, the Fulbright-Robertson Visiting Professor in British History at Westminster College in Missouri. Her first book, *Regency in Sixteenth-Century Scotland* was published in February 2015.

### Dr Emily Guerry

#### Lecturer

Born in San Francisco, Emily attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a D-1 Volleyball scholarship and left with a passion for Medieval History. She received the Chancellor's Award and graduated with a double major in Art History and History in 2007.

Next, she ventured to the UK to pursue her graduate work at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. In 2010, she began her fieldwork as a visiting fellow at the Centre des Monuments Nationaux in Paris and in 2011, she lectured at the University of York. After completing her PhD in 2012, she began a three-year Junior Research Fellowship at Merton College, University of Oxford.

In her research, she continues to examine the relationship between religious devotion and artistic representation in the Middle Ages. She is particularly interested in how the veneration of relics influenced Christian iconography.

**Dr Mark Hurst****Research Support Officer**

In this new position within the School of History I will be helping to develop the School's research culture across a number of areas.

This will include assisting colleagues to make applications for research funding, promoting the work being conducted by those in the School, and helping to maximise both the quality and impact of the School's research.

This is an exciting opportunity to help promote and support the research being conducted by historians at Kent, and I am very much looking forward to working closely with academics in the School while continuing with my own research.

**Dates for your diary****Research Seminars**

**Please find below details of October's Research Seminars, which take place every Wednesday from 4.30-5.30pm, in RS7**

**7 October**

*The Spanish Civil Wars: A Comparative Study of the First Carlist War and the Conflict of the 1930s*  
Dr Mark Lawrence

**14 October**

*Physicist anthropologies and the cultural history of mechanics, 1860s-1930s*  
Dr Richard Stanley (University of Cambridge)

**21 October**

*The Re-invention of Relics: The Crown of Thorns and the Art of the Sainte-Chapelle*  
Dr Emily Guerry

**Open Lectures**

**Annual History of Medicine Lecture, Wednesday 28 October, 4.30-5.30pm**

Steven Sturdy, Professor of the Sociology of Medical Knowledge from the University of Edinburgh will be giving this year's History of Medicine lecture, on *The Genomic Revolution in Medicine: Historical Perspectives*.

The event is open and free to all.

**Friday 16 October, 5.00-9.00pm**

Professor Fransjohan Pretorius, of the University of Pretoria, will be giving a talk on *Jan Smuts in the Boer War: The Beginning of his Sanguine Years*.

Location of both lectures to be confirmed.

**Dr Chris Smith****Lecturer**

Chris Smith received a BA in History at Aberystwyth University in 2007. He remained there to undertake an MA in 18th Century British History in 2008. In 2013 he was awarded a PhD, also from Aberystwyth University, having conducted a thesis on social and cultural history of the Government Code and Cypher School, Britain's code breaking agency housed at Bletchley Park, during the Second World. He is interested in social class and gender in 20th Century Britain and the Home Front during the Second World War in particular. Previously Chris taught history at Aberystwyth University and the University of Worcester.

Dr Smith's PhD Doctoral research formed the basis for a monograph entitled *The Hidden History of Bletchley Park*, published in 2015 by Palgrave Macmillan. He has also published articles on codebreaking technology in *History of Science and War in History*, and class and gender in wartime Britain *Women's History Magazine*.

**Francine Wise****PA to the Head of School/Events Co-ordinator**

Prior to joining the University of Kent my career had been based in HR and payroll since 2006. In 2010 I went part time in payroll to complete a BA Hons in American Studies, which I completed in 2013 with First Class honours. Since joining the School as Events Organiser and PA to the Head of School in May this year I have found it really easy to settle in with the Department.

My day to day duties are extremely varied and include diary management for the Head of School, dealing with estates matters, organising travel and accommodation arrangements for staff/external visitors and arranging school events - to name but a few! I am looking forward to the start of the new academic year and any challenges this may bring.

## History Projects a success for Kent's 50th Anniversary exhibition

**Dr Mark Hurst**

During the course of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the School of History's 'History Projects' have been involved in a number of major exhibitions held at the university. The first, which took place in June 2015, saw a launch exhibition held in the Aphra foyer which showcased the work of student volunteers from the School. This exhibition was launched with a 'Witness Seminar' on the evening of 8 June, which saw a panel of past and present staff and students discuss their experiences at Kent. This live engagement in oral history covered a breadth of topics, and gave the chance to reflect on



how much the university has changed in 50 years. A recording of this event will be deposited in the university archive so that scholars working on the history of the university

have a rich document to use in their research.

The second major exhibition took place as a centre piece of the Kent Festival in September 2015, allowing those returning to their *alma mater* to engage with the history of the university, and reflect on how much it has changed. This exhibition contained a mix of Oral History 'snippets' and photographs of the university through the years which, on a number of occasions, included photos of those attending the festival during their student days. A great attraction of the day was the registry records documenting all graduations at the university from the



mid-1960s to the present, allowing visitors to find the documentation from their own graduations. Student volunteers from the School of History were on hand to talk to visitors throughout the weekend, talking them through their hard work in compiling their exhibition.



## School hosts largest ever British International History Group Conference

**Professor Gaynor Johnson**

The School of History played host to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the British International History Group, 10-12 September 2015.

The conference, which was the largest in the organisation's history, attracted over ninety delegates from all over the world, including Malaysia, South Korea, the United States, Canada, the Middle East, as well as a large contingent of academics from British universities.

The event opened with a round table discussion about changes in the ways in which teaching international history has changed over the years, chaired by Dr Patrick Finney (Aberystwyth University), and which included contributions from Professor Gaynor Johnson (University of Kent), Dr Antony Best (LSE), Dr Spencer Mawby (Nottingham University) and Dr Helen Parr (Keele University). The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr James Ellison (Queen Mary College, University of London), with the title, 'Failed Intelligence? The Origins of the Iraq War'. This was preceded by a plenary session chaired by Kai Bruns (American University in the Emirates) on diplomatic practice in the twentieth century.

The main focus of the discussion was on the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. He led participation from Professor John Young (Nottingham University); Dr Lorna Lloyd (Keele University); Ben Muda (Universiti Utara Malaysia) as well as contributing a discussion of the British response to the Convention. The delegates attended a record number of panels on subjects as diverse as the diplomatic fall out from the Congress of Vienna to the consequences of 9/11. On 11 September, delegates enjoyed a conference dinner at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, which also offered an opportunity to explore the cathedral, part of the World Heritage Site in the heart of the city.

If you have a news item, an upcoming event, or simply an idea for something you'd like to see in the next issue of this newsletter, please get in touch with Sam Crooks on [s.l.m.crooks@kent.ac.uk](mailto:s.l.m.crooks@kent.ac.uk).